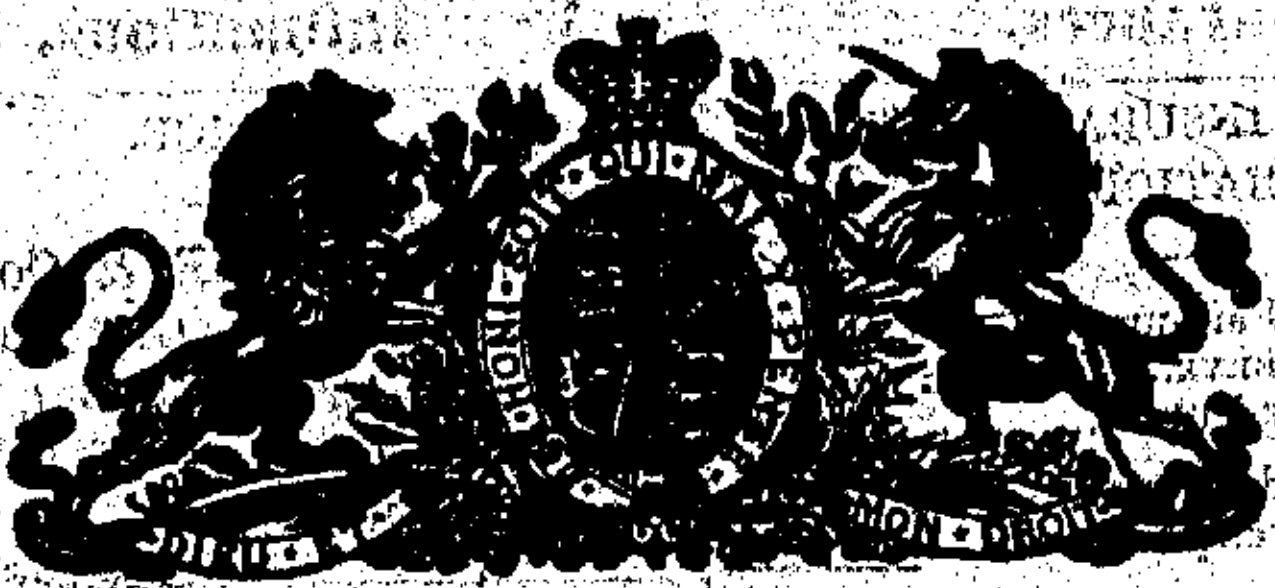


CHINA



MAIL.

Established February, 1845.

With which is incorporated The "Hongkong Evening Mail and Shipping List." Published every Evening.

VOL. XXXIII. No. 4488. 號三十月十年七十七百八千一英

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1877.

日七初月九年丑丁

PRICE, \$24 PER ANNUM.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALGAR, 8, Clement's Lane,
Lombard Street. GEORGE STREET, 30,
Cornhill. GORDON & GOSCH, Ludgate
Circus. E. C. BATES, HENDY & Co.,
4, Old Jewry. E. C. SAMUEL DEACON &
Co., 160 & 164, Leadenhall Street.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WILD, 133, Nassau
Street.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW
ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOSCH, Mel-
bourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports
generally.—BRAN & BROWN, San Fran-
cisco.

SINGAPORE AND STRAITS.—SAYLE &
Co., Square, Singapore. C. HEINZEN
& Co., Manila.

CHINA.—SAYLE, QUELON & CAMPBELL,
Amoy. WILSON, NICHOLLS & Co.,
Fookow. HENRY & Co., Shanghai.
LARK, CRAWFORD & Co., and KIMLY
& WALKER, Yokohama. LANE, CRAW-
FORD & Co.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....5,000,000 Dollars.
RESERVE FUND.....650,000 Dollars.

COURT OF DIRECTORS.
Chairman.—H. HOPKINS, Esq.
Deputy Chairman.—F. D. SASSOON, Esq.
E. R. BEILLIOS, Esq. WILHELM REINERS,
W. H. FORBES, Esq. Esq.
HON. W. KESWICK. ED. TOBIN, Esq.
A. McIVER, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER.

Hongkong,.....THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.
MANAGER.
Shanghai,.....EWEN CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS.—London and County
Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

ON Current Deposit Account at the rate
of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily
balance.

For Fixed Deposits:—
For 3 months, 2 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent. " "
" 12 " 5 per cent. " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities,
and every description of Banking and
Exchange business transacted.
Drafts, granted on London, and the
chief Commercial places in Europe, India,
Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Offices of the Corporation,
No. 1, Queen's Road East,
Hongkong, August 16, 1877.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA.

CAPITAL.....£300,000.
RESERVE FUND.....£110,000.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.
THE CITY BANK.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

THE BANK'S BRANCH IN HONG-
KONG grants Drafts on London and
the Chief Commercial places in Europe and
the East; buys and receives for collection
Bills of Exchange; and conducts all kinds
of Banking and Exchange Business.

Local Bills discounted, and interest
allowed on Current Accounts and on De-
posits for fixed periods on terms which may
be ascertained on application. d66

Intimations.

HONGKONG RACES, 1878.

THE HONGKONG DERBY.—Sweep-
stakes of \$20 each, half forfeit if
declared on or before the day of closing
Entries, with \$100 added for 1st Pony, and
\$50 for 2nd. For all China Ponies bond
due Griffin at date of Entry (1st February,
1878). First Pony, 70 per cent.; Second,
20 per cent.; Third, 10 per cent. Weight
10st. 7 lbs. One-mile-and-a-half. (Nomi-
nations close on THURSDAY, the 27th De-
cember, 1877, addressed to the Clerk of the
Course at the Club).

By Order,
DENIS CREAGE,
Capt. 28th Regt.,
Clerk of the Course.
Hongkong, October 11, 1877. cc26

DENTAL NOTICE.

D. B. STOUT has RETURNED, and will be
ready to receive Patients on MONDAY,
the 24th instant, until further notice, at his
Rooms, Ground Floor, HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.
Office hours, 8 to 12 Noon and 2 to 4 p.m.
Hongkong, September 22, 1877.

Intimations.

G. FALCONER & Co.,
WATCH AND CHRONOMETER
MANUFACTURERS,
AND
JEWELLERS.
NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS
AND BOOKS.
46, Queen's Road Central.
Hongkong, August 20, 1877. cc20

IN THE GOODS OF
JAMES SMITH FERRIES,
Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given, that all Cre-
ditors and other Persons, having any
CLAIMS or DEMANDS upon or against
the Estate of JAMES SMITH FERRIES,
late Master of the S. S. "ZEALANDIA,"
who died at Sea on Board the said Vessel,
on the 8th day of February 1877, and
whose Will was duly proved, and Letters
of Administration, with the Will annexed,
of whose personal Estate were duly granted
to JOHN FAIRBAIRN, of No. 27 Queen's
Road, in the Colony of Hongkong, by the
Supreme Court of Hongkong, in the Pro-
bate Jurisdiction, on the 22nd day of Sep-
tember 1877, are hereby required to send
in writing the particulars of their Claims
or Demands to the said JOHN FAIRBAIRN
at his address aforesaid, or to the Under-
signed WILLIAM HENRY BRERETON, the
Solicitor of the said JOHN FAIRBAIRN, at
the Office of the said WILLIAM HENRY
BRERETON, 29 Queen's Road, Hongkong,
on or before the 15th day of January, 1878.
And notice is hereby given that at the
expiration of the last-mentioned day, the
said JOHN FAIRBAIRN will proceed to dis-
tribute the Assets of the said JAMES
SMITH FERRIES amongst the parties
entitled thereto, having regard to the
Claims of which the said JOHN FAIRBAIRN
has then had notice; and that the said
JOHN FAIRBAIRN will not be liable for the
Assets or any part thereof, so distributed,
to any person of whose Claim the said
JOHN FAIRBAIRN has not had notice at the
time of the distribution.

Dated this 3rd day of October, 1877.
Wm. H. BRERETON,
Solicitor for the said JOHN FAIRBAIRN. ja16

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR
1876.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Com-
pany are requested to furnish the
Underigned with a List of their Contribu-
tions for the year ending 31st December
last, in order that the proportion of the
Net Profits to be reserved for Contributors
may be arranged. Returns not rendered
prior to the 31st October next will be ad-
justed by the Company, and no claims or
alterations will be subsequently admitted.
JAS. B. COUGHRAN,
Secretary.
Hongkong, August 1, 1877. cc1

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR
1876.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Com-
pany are requested to furnish the
Underigned with a List of their Contribu-
tions for the year ending 31st December
last, in order that the distribution of Twenty per
cent (20 %) of the Net Profits reserved for
Contributors may be arranged. Returns
not rendered prior to the 31st October next,
will be adjusted by the Company, and no
claims or alterations will be subsequently
admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, August 1, 1877. cc1

PIANOS and any other Musical Instru-
ments TUNED, REPAIRED,
and RE-CONSTRUCTED.
PIANOS ON HIRE, by the Month or
Occasionally.
PIANOS FOR SALE, New and Second-
Hand, all in perfectly Good
Order, Guaranteed.

Special Attention is invited to a new
Grand Cottage PIANO, by LUDWIG
RUBNER, Zettl-John Received from Ger-
many, and specially constructed for this
climate to the order of the Underigned.
Orders from any of the Outposts in the
East, will meet with prompt attention if
addressed to:
Care of Messrs LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,
or "Messrs GAUFF & Co."
A. HAHN.
Hongkong, September 7, 1877.

DENTAL NOTICE.

D. ROBERTS begs to inform his
Patrons and the Public that he in-
tends to visit AMOY and FOOSHOW in
September and October, leaving HONG-
KONG about the 15th of September.
Hongkong, August 6, 1877.

Intimations.

CONDENSED EGGS.
THIS NEW ARTICLE, recently placed
upon the Market, consists simply of
fresh-laid HENS' EGGS, from which most
of the water has been evaporated, and being
hermetically sealed, remains perfectly sound.
The EGGS thus condensed are obtained
in the Empire of China, and canned in the
immediate vicinity in which they are pro-
duced, thereby avoiding the deterioration
to which EGGS are subjected when trans-
ported in the shell. So that, in point of
fact, the CONDENSED EGGS preserved
under the patent of A. R. DAVIS, furnish
to the consumer, EGGS possessing more
perfectly the properties of fresh-laid EGGS
than those ordinarily supplied to any city.
The CONDENSED EGGS will beat up
into light froth as readily as EGGS taken
immediately from the shell, and are equally
valuable in making Cakes, Custards, Creams,
Pastry, Puddings, Egg-Nog, &c., &c.
ECONOMY.
For Hotels, and Restaurants, or for
Families, or Vessels at sea, this Article is
invaluable, as there is no loss from breakage
or decay, and a tin will keep for any length
of time after opening, being sealed only for
transportation.
One Table-spoonful is equal to one Egg.
Add equal amount of water (warm is pre-
ferable); dissolve it well; then use same as
any Egg.

LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.,
Agents for Hongkong.

MUSTARD & Co.,
General Agents at Shanghai. cc24

COSMOPOLITAN DOCKS.

THE Underigned, until further notice,
offer to REMOVAL VESSELS, Fur-
nishing all Material and Labor, except
METAL AND NAILS, for TWENTY-FIVE
Cents per Sheet.
IRON STEAMERS and SAILING VESSELS
requiring Three Coats Paint or Tallow,
Thirty Cents per Ton Register.
W. B. SPRAATT & Co.,
Proprietors.
Hongkong, October 10, 1877. cc10

NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE YANG-TSZE INSUR-
ANCE ASSOCIATION.
SHANGHAI, 8th October, 1877.

IN pursuance of a Resolution passed at the
GENERAL MEETING of the ASSO-
CIATION held on the 6th July, 1877, a
Return of Capital of ONE HUNDRED AND
FIFTY TAELS per SHARE will be made
at the Office of the Secretaries on the
15th instant, to Shareholders of record the
10th instant.

Warrants will be delivered by the Under-
signed to Shareholders, or their lawful Re-
presentatives on presentation of Share
Certificates.
RUSSELL & Co.,
Secretaries.

OFFICE OF THE SHANGHAI STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, IN LIQUIDATION.

A SECOND RETURN OF CAPITAL at
the Rate of FIVE TAELS per
SHARE will be made to Shareholders of
record on the 1st October, Payable at the
Office of the Liquidators, on the 8th Inst.
Certificates will be delivered by the Under-
signed to Shareholders or their lawful
representatives on presentation of Share
Certificates for Endorsement.
The Transfer BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 2nd to the 8th
instant, inclusive.
By Order,
RUSSELL & Co.,
Liquidators.
Shanghai, October 2, 1877.

DEVON'S BRILLIANT OIL.

RELIABLE,
ECONOMICAL,
SAFE!!

DESIRING to benefit by the world-
wide reputation of our Oil, certain
parties have attempted to imitate our pack-
ages. Suits at law have been instituted
against the MAKERS and PURCHASERS of
these imitations. Buyers should be careful
to see that the words "DEVON'S BRIL-
LIANT" are stencilled on the cases, and the
words "DEVON'S CO. PATENTS" are
stamped on the top of the can.

THE DEVON MANUFACTURING Co.,

50 Beaver and 127 Pearl Streets,
NEW YORK, U. S. A.

For Sale.

LAMBERT, ATKINSON & Co.
HAVE FOR SALE,
EX STEAMSHIPS
"YORKSHIRE," "MADAGASCAR,"
"CITY OF TOKIO," &c., &c.

NEW SEASONS (May) BUTTER.
The First Shipment of Busch & Co.'s
Celebrated Cowbrand DANISH BUTTER.
In Tins of 1 lb. each, 50 Cents per lb.
In Tins of 2 lb. each, 55 Cents per lb.
In Tins of 4 lb. each, 50 Cents per lb.

Fresh supplies of CROSSE & BLACKWELL'S
OILMAN'S STORES, and American
Family MESS STORES,—As per their
JULY PRICE LIST.
(All Stores sold by L. A. & Co. are of the
Very Best Quality.)

Chappell & Co.'s New and Popular
MUSIC and SONGS.

Very Superior California BLANKETS,
12/4 and 14/6.

California KNEE BOOTS:
Dawson's Best London-made GENTLE-
MEN'S BOOTS.

HORSE BLANKETS,
Central and Pin-fire CARTRIDGE
CASES.

Gun-Wads, PERCUSSION CAPS,
BILLIARD TABLE CLOTHS,
ROCKETS and BLUE-LIGHTS,
ROTH'S RUSSIAN ROPE and
TARRED LINES.

FISHING LINES and WHITE LINES,
of all descriptions.

INDIA RUBBER SHEETS, and In-
sertion of all Sizes.

INDIA RUBBER and CANVAS DE-
LIVERY and SUCTION HOSE.

Cabin Suspension LAMPS,
Cabin CANDLESTICKS,
FENDERS and FIRE IRONS,
Japanned TOILET SETS,
CARRIAGE LAMPS, and CARRIAGE
CANDLES.

WATER FILTERS,
Gosnell's HAIR BRUSHES, TOOTH
BRUSHES and NAIL
BRUSHES.

A Fine Assortment of De La Rue's
STATIONERY BOOKS,
NOVELS, WORKS OF REFERENCE,
SCHOOL BOOKS,
&c., &c., &c.
Hongkong, September 15, 1877.

FOR SALE.

L. TAMPIER & Co.'s BURGUNDY,
Bordeaux and Pomard, in Pinta.
FRIMINET & FILA OLIVET LABARDE,
in Quarts and Pinta.

IRISH and SCOTCH WHISKY,
OLD-TOM GIN.
PORT 1847.

WIELER & Co.,
Hongkong, October 12, 1877. cc19

FOR SALE.

C. HAMPAGNE 1874,
HEIDSIECK & Co.'s
MONOPOLE.

DEETJEN & Co.,
Hongkong, October 2, 1877. cc1

FOR SALE.

CUTLER, PALMER & Co.'s
Celebrated
Brands of WINES and SPIRITS.
Apply to
SIEMSEN & Co.
Hongkong, June 22, 1876.

NOW READY.

A CHINESE DICTIONARY IN THE
CANTONESE DIALECT. Part I,
A to K, with Introduction, Royal 8vo,
pp. 202.—By ERNEST JOHN EITEL, Ph.D.
Tübingen.
Price: Two DOLLARS AND A HALF.
To be had from Messrs LANE, CRAWFORD
& Co., Hongkong and Shanghai; and Messrs
KIMLY & WALKER, Shanghai.
Hongkong, February 5, 1877.

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.
The Interest and Responsibility of Mr
F. RAPP in our Firm CEASED from
This Day.
F. BLACKHEAD & Co.
Hongkong, October 1, 1877. cc1

NOTICE.
MR. CHARLES DAVID BOTTOMLEY
was admitted a PARTNER in our
Firm on the 1st July, 1877.
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.
Hongkong, September 23, 1877.

NOTICE.
FROM This Date Mr EDWARD SHEPPARD
and Mr M. W. GREEN, are autho-
rized to Sign the name of our Firm for
Procurement at Fookow, and Mr F. F.
EWELL at Amoy.
RUSSELL & Co.
Calcutta, June 1, 1877. cc1

Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL,
HONGKONG.
POSITIVELY LAST THREE
PERFORMANCES.

This Evening,
October 13th,
AND
Monday, & Tuesday Evenings,
October 15th, and 16th, 1877.

THE COMPANY WILL POSITIVELY LEAVE
OCTOBER 17TH, FOR CALCUTTA.

THE FAMOUS ROYAL
ILLUSIONISTS,
FROM ENGLAND'S HOME OF MYSTERY, the
EGYPTIAN HALL, LONDON; where their un-
paralleled Entertainments were presented
nightly to crowded audiences for over two
years.

In their unique and STARTLING
WONDERS.

Their profoundly
MYSTERIOUS SEANCES
have been given in the presence
of the Crowned heads and Nobility
of Europe and before vast and Intel-
ligent Assemblages throughout the
civilized world, astonishing and
confounding the wisest of
all Countries.

PROGRAMME:

PART I.

"AN HOUR IN DREAMLAND WITH
KELLAR."

Intermission of Ten Minutes.

PART II.

"THE WONDERFUL CABINET
SEANCE"—KELLAR, assisted by
LING LOOK.

Intermission of Ten Minutes.

PART III.

"LA CENA INFERNALE," by the Inimit-
able LING LOOK.

Admission: \$2.00
To all Parts of the House.

Seats can now be secured at Messrs
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., where Plan of the
Hall can be seen.
Doors Open at 8.30. Commence at
9 o'clock sharp.
Chairs may be ordered for 11.15 p.m.
Hongkong, October 13, 1877. cc17

Shipping.

Steamers.

FOR SINGAPORE.
The Departure of the Steamer
"JAYLA."

Capt. WEBER, for the above
Port is POSTPONED until
MONDAY, the 16th instant, at 3 p.m.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
HOP KEE & Co.
Hongkong, October 12, 1877. cc15

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOOSHOW.

The Steamship
"YESHO,"
Capt. S. ASHTON, will be de-
spatched for the above Ports
on TUESDAY, the 16th Inst., at Daylight.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.
Hongkong, October 11, 1877. cc16

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

The British Steamship
"JAPAN,"
Capt. H. DE SMIDT, will leave
this for the above Ports on
THURSDAY, the 18th instant, at 3 p.m.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, October 10, 1877. cc18

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

The Steamship
"ARGYLE,"
Captain Scott, will leave for
the above Ports on THURS-
DAY, the 18th instant, at 3 p.m.
For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.
Hongkong, October 10, 1877. cc19

FOR COOKTOWN AND SYDNEY.

(Taking Cargo at through rates for all
Australian and New Zealand Ports.)
The Steamship
"COBAN,"
will load as above, and be
despatched on or about the
1st of November.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, October 6, 1877.

Shipping.

Sailing Vessels.
FOR NEW YORK.
The A 1 American Ship
"H. S. SANDFORD,"
A. SANDFORD, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and
have early despatch.
For Freight, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
Hongkong, September 26, 1877. cc26

FOR LONDON.
The 100 A 1 British Barque
"WOODVILLE,"
T. E. NELSON, Master, will
load here and have quick
despatch.

For Freight, apply to
MEYER & Co.
Hongkong, September 26, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK.
The A 1 British Barque
"CHINAMAN,"
Capt. A. MACKENZIE, will load
here, and have quick despatch
for the above Port.

For Freight, apply to
DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, October 6, 1877.

FOR MELBOURNE & SYDNEY.

The Portuguese Ship
"ALVA,"
Captain SOUZA, will load here
for the above Ports, and will
have quick despatch.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
HOP KEE & Co.
Hongkong, October 6, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK.

The A 1 British Ship
"ISLES OF THE SOUTH,"
DENNETT, Master, will load here
for the above Port, and will have
quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, October 10, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK.

The A 1 British Bark
"ABERLADY,"
J. NICOLL, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and
will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, August 16, 1877.

FOR NEW YORK.

The A 1 British Bark
"GRASMEER,"
HASTINGS, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and
will have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, August 16, 1877.

FOR LONDON.

The A 1 100 years splendid
British Clipper Ship
"SYDENHAM,"
A. MILLAR, Commander, will
have quick despatch for the above Port.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, September 27, 1877.

FOR LONDON.

The A 1 British Barque
"GEO. CROSHAW,"
Geo. IYING, Master, will have
early despatch as above.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, July 23, 1877.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The 3/4 L. I. L. German Ship
"GALATEA,"
JANZEN, Master, will load here
for the above Port, and will
have quick despatch.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, September 10, 1877.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.

The A 1 British Ship
"JUBILEE,"
J. HARRIS, Master, will load
here for the above Port, and
will have immediate despatch.

For Freight, apply to
VOGEL, HAGEDORN & Co.
Hongkong, September 1, 1877.

FOR HAMBURG.

The A 1 British Bark
"LORD MACAULAY,"
Capt. MONKMAN, will load for
the above Port, and will have
quick despatch.

Mails.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.
PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANÇAIS.
STEAM FOR
HAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
POINT DE GALLE, ADEN, SUERZ,
ISMAILA, PORT SAID, NAPLES,
AND MARSEILLES;
Also,
PONDICHERRY, MADRAS, CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY.

ON THURSDAY, the 18th October, 1877, at Noon, the Company's S.S. YANG-TSE, Commandant RAPELLE, with MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIES, and CARGO, will leave this Port for the above places.
Cargo and Specie will be registered for London as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.
Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m., Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m. on the 17th October, 1877. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.)
Contents and value of Packages are required.
For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.
H. DU POUY, Agent.
Hongkong, October 10, 1877. oc18

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

THROUGH-TO NEW YORK, VIA
OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND THROUGH
AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE U. S. Mail Steamer CITY OF PEKING will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on WEDNESDAY, the 24th Instant, 1877, at 12 o'clock Noon, taking Passengers, and Freight, for Japan, the United States, and Europe.
Through Passengers Tickets and Bills of Lading are issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, and to New York and Europe via OVERLAND RAILWAYS.
A Steamer of the Mitsui Bishi S.S. Co. will leave Shanghai, via the Inland Sea Ports, about same date, and make close connection at Yokohama.
At New York, Passengers have selection of various lines of Steamers to England, France and Germany.
Freight will be received on board until 4 p.m., 23rd Instant. Parcel Packages will be received at the office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full value of same is required.
Consular Invoices to accompany Overland Cargo should be sent to the Company's Office in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.
For security's sake, Shippers of Overland Cargo are requested to endorse on the Envelope the Marks and Nos. of Packages shipped, to correspond with those in their Bills of Lading.
For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 8, Praya Central.
RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
Hongkong, October 4, 1877. oc24



STEAM FOR

Singapore, Penang, Point de Galle, Aden, Suerz, Malta, Brindisi, Ancona, Venice, Mediterranean Ports, Southampton, and London, via Bombay, and Australia.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship GEELONG, Captain FRASER, will leave this on THURSDAY, the 25th October, at Noon.

For further Particulars, apply to
A. LIND, Superintendent.
Hongkong, October 12, 1877. oc25

Occidental & Oriental Steamship Company.

TAKING THROUGH CARGO AND PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENTRAL

and
UNION PACIFIC AND CONNECTING RAILROAD COMPANIES AND ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

THE S. S. "OCEANIC" will be despatched for San Francisco via Yokohama, on THURSDAY, the 8th November, at 3 p.m., taking Cargo and Passengers for Japan, the United States and Europe.
Connection is made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai.
Freight will be received on Board until 4 p.m. of the 7th November. PARCEL PACKAGES will be received at the Office until 5 p.m. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full value of same is required.
Return Passage Tickets available for 6 months are issued at a reduction of 20 per cent. on regular rates.
For further information as to Freight & Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 8, Praya Central.
G. B. EMOBY, Agent.
Hongkong, October 5, 1877. oc28

Insurances.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

AGENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Penang.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above mentioned Ports.

NO CHARGE FOR POLICY FEES.
JAS. B. COUGHTRIN,
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 1, 1871.

LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

(FIRE AND LIFE.)

CAPITAL—TWO MILLIONS STERLING.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against the Risk of FIRE on Buildings or on Goods stored therein, on Coals in Matched, on Goods on board Vessels and on Halls of Vessels in Harbour, at the usual Terms and Conditions. Proposals for Life Insurance will be received, and transmitted to the Directors for their decision.
If required, protection will be granted on first class Lives up to £1000 on a Single Life.
For Rates of Premiums, forms of proposals or any other information, apply to
ARNHOLD, KARBERG & Co.
Agents Hongkong & Canton.
Hongkong, January 4, 1867.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

MELOHERS & Co.,
Agents, Royal Insurance Company.
Hongkong, October 27, 1874.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, Two Thirds of the Profits are distributed annually to Contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each; the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.

OLYPHANT & Co.,
General Agents.
Hongkong, April 17, 1878.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE to the extent of £45,000 on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, at current local rates, subject to a Discount of 20% on the Premium.

NORTON & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, January 1, 1874.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Special Acts of Parliament.

ESTABLISHED 1809.
CAPITAL £2,000,000.

THE Undersigned, AGENTS at Hongkong for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against FIRE, to the extent of £10,000 on any Building, or on Merchandise in the same, at the usual Rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.

GILMAN & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, July 6, 1876.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF His Majesty King George The First, A. D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation are prepared to grant Insurances as follows—
Marine Department.
Policies at current rates payable either here, in London or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.
Fire Department.
Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates. A discount of 20% allowed.
Life Department.
Policies issued for sums not exceeding \$5,000 at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Hongkong, July 25, 1872.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned Agents are in receipt of instructions from the Board of Directors authorizing them to issue Policies to the extent of £10,000 on any one first class risk, or to the extent of £15,000 on adjoining risks at current rates.
A Discount of 20% allowed.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Hongkong, January 8, 1874.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF MANCHESTER AND LONDON.

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Company at Hongkong, Canton, Foochow, Shanghai and Hankow, and are prepared to grant Insurances at current rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,
Hongkong, October 14, 1876.

Insurances.

YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL—Fully Paid-up—£1,200,000
PERMANENT RESERVE—£250,000
SPECIAL RESERVE—£75,000
Total Capital and Reserves—£1,525,000
These this date.

Directors:
F. B. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.
M. W. BOYD, Esq., C. KERR, Esq.,
M. P. EVANS, Esq., C. LUCAS, Esq.,
Secretaries:
Messrs. RUSSELL & Co., Shanghai.
London Bankers.

Messrs. BARNES BROTHERS & Co.,
Agents.
HONGKONG, LONDON, SAN FRANCISCO, and the Principal Ports in the East.

POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates.

Subject to a charge of 12% for interest on Shareholders' Capital. All the Profits of the Undersigned Business will be annually distributed among all Contributors of Business in proportion to the premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, October 1, 1877.

SHEONG ON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Directors:
KWOK AGHEONG, Merchant.
PANG YIM, Merchant.
HO SAM, of Hop Yik Chan, Merchant.
LOO YEE, of the Lee On Hong, Merchant.
LEE SING, of Lai Hing Shing, Merchant.
CHANG SING YONG, Merchant.
CHOY CHAN, Merchant.

Manager—HO AMEL.
Policies against FIRE granted on Buildings and on Goods stored therein at CURRENT RATES, subject to DISCOUNT of 20% on the Premium.

OFFICE, 43, Bonham Strand.
Hongkong, August 23, 1877. oc26

TO LET.

NOS. 4, and 5, PRIMA TERRACE, ELGIN STREET.
Apply to
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Hongkong, July 30, 1877.

AN OFFICE TO LET.

Apply to
LANDSTEIN & Co.
Hongkong, September 15, 1877.

TO LET.

HOUSE No. 10, Albany Road, lately occupied by the Rev. R. H. KIDD, "Blancs Villa," Pok-foo-lun, Furnished. House No. 2, Peddar's Hill. House No. 2, Seymour Terrace.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, October 9, 1877.

TO LET.

THE DWELLING HOUSE and Offices No. 1, D'Agular Street, lately in the occupation of Messrs DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co. The Dwelling House No. 10, Gough Street.

Apply to
DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co.
Hongkong, July 9, 1877.

TO LET.

THE DWELLING HOUSE in CAINE ROAD, at present in the occupation of H. DU POUY, Esq. Possession from 1st November next.

Apply to
JOHN JACK,
East Point.
Hongkong, September 7, 1877.

Intimations.

NOTICE.

FROM and after the Chinese New Year's day (February 17, 1874) the Chinese Mail will be issued DAILY instead of WEEKLY as heretofore. No change, however, will be made in the price of subscription, which will remain at \$4 per annum.

The charges for advertisements are now assimilated to those of the Chinese Mail. The unusual success which has attended the Chinese Mail makes it an admirable medium for advertisement.

The Conductors guarantee an eventual circulation of one thousand copies. It is already the most influential native journal published, and enjoys considerable prestige at the Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Penang, Calcutta, San Francisco and Australia.

For terms, &c., address
MR. CHUN ATIN,
Manager.
China Mail Office,
17th February, 1874.

Intimations.

NOTICE.

A. MILLAR & Co.,
PLUMBERS, AND GAS FITTERS,
Queen's Road East,
HONGKONG.
September 16, 1877.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

TENDERS are invited for a LEASE of the HONGKONG HOTEL, the present five-yearly lease expiring on the 31st August, 1878. SEALED TENDERS to be sent in on or before the 31st March, 1878, to the Secretary of the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, who will supply any information required.

By Order of the Directors,
LOUIS HAUSCHILD,
Secretary.
Hongkong, September 15, 1877. ap1

W. BALL,
CHINA DISPENSARY.

IMPORTER OF DRUGS, CHEMICALS, DRUGGISTS' Sundries, TOILET REQUISITES, PATENT MEDICINES AND PERFUMES.

Prescriptions Dispensed with Carefulness, and Prompt Attention.

PRAYA WEST, HONGKONG,
Near the Canton Steamer's Wharf,
Hongkong, July 13, 1876.

Volume Sixth of the

"CHINA REVIEW."

No. 1.—Vol. VI.
—OF THE—
"CHINA REVIEW"

CONTAINS—

Chinese Studies and Official Interpretation in the Colony of Hongkong. Constitutional Law of the Chinese Empire. The Tang Hou Chi, A Modern Chinese Novel. A Chinese Primer. The Law of Inheritance. Short Notices of New Books and Literary Intelligence.

Notes and Queries—Chinese Marriages. Studies in Words. Restoration of the Old Sounds of the Chinese Language. Notes on Chinese Grammar. Russian Sinologists. Assyria and China. The Word "Swallow."

Corrigenda.—Chinese Studies and Official Interpretation in the Colony of Hongkong.

China Mail Office,
Hongkong, September 1, 1877.

AH YON,

SHIPS' COMPRADORE AND STEVEDORE.

No. 57, Praya West.

SHIPPING SUPPLIED WITH ALL KINDS OF COAL, WATER, BALLAST, FRESH PROVISIONS & OILMAN'S STORES.

Of the best quality and at the shortest notice.
Hongkong, May 1, 1876.

A NEW STOCK OF

NEXT JOBBING TYPES

HAVING BEEN RECEIVED FROM ENGLAND.

THIS OFFICE IS PREPARED TO EXECUTE BOOK & JOB-PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION AT REASONABLE RATES.

FANCY BALL PROGRAMMES ASSORTED SIZES, IN GOLD AND COLOURS.

BALL PENCILS,

assorted colours.

MENU CARDS,

In Gold & Coloured Borders & Patterns.

BOOKS BOUND IN APPROVED PATTERNS.

For Sale.

AGREEMENTS FOR FOREIGN-GOING SHIPS.

LADY'S AND GENTLEMAN'S WASHING BOOKS.

CONTRACT PASSAGE TICKETS, EXPORT CARGO REPORTS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY, CHARTER PARTIES, SHIPPING ORDERS, BILLS OF LADING, PASSENGER-LISTS, BILLS OF SALE, LOG BOOKS, WILLS.

do, do, do.

China Mail Office, 2, Wyndham Street, (Back of Club).

Intimations.

THE CHINA REVIEW.

THE widely-expressed regret at the discontinuance of Notes & Queries on China and Japan, has induced the publishers of this journal to issue a publication similar in object and style, but slightly modified in certain details.

THE CHINA REVIEW, or Notes and Queries on the Far East, is issued at intervals of two months, each number containing about 60 octavo pages, occasionally illustrated with lithographs, photographs, woodcuts, &c., should the papers published demand, and the circulation justify, such extra matter.

The subscription is fixed at \$6.50 postage paid, per annum, payable by non-residents in Hongkong half-yearly in advance.

The publication includes papers original and selected upon the Arts and Sciences, Ethnology, Folklore, Geography, History, Literature, Mythology, Manners and Customs, Natural History, Religion, &c., &c., of China, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, the Eastern Archipelago and the "Far East" generally. A more detailed list of subjects upon which contributions are especially invited is incorporated with each number.

Original contributions in Chinese, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese, are admissible. Endeavours are made to present a résumé in each number of the contents of the most recent works bearing on Chinese matters. Great attention is also paid to the Review department.

Notes and Replies are classified together as "Notes" (head references being given, when furnished, to previous Notes or Queries), as are also those queries which, though asking for information, furnish new or unpublished details concerning the matter in hand. It is desirable to make the Queries proper as brief and as much to the point as possible.

The China Review for July and August, 1875, is at hand. It says that forty-two essays were sent in to compete for the best prize on the advantages of Christianity for the development of a State. All our learned societies should subscribe to this scholarly and entertaining Review. It is a sixty-paged, bi-monthly, repository of what scholars are ascertaining about China. The lecture on Chinese Poetry in this volume is alone worth the price of the Review. Address China Review, Hongkong.—Northern China Advocate (U.S.).

Primer's Oriental Record contains the following notice of the China Review:—"This is the title of a publication, the first number of which has lately reached us from Hongkong, where it has been set on foot as a review of Chinese and Japanese literature, of which useful series a year or two ago has been much regretted in Europe as well as in China. The present publication, judging by the number now before us, is intended to occupy a position, as regards China and the neighbouring countries, somewhat similar to that which has been filled in India by the Calcutta Review. The great degree of attention that has been bestowed of late years upon the investigation of Chinese literature, antiquities, and social developments, to say nothing of linguistic studies, has led to the accumulation of important stores of information, rendering some such channel of publicity as is now provided extremely desirable; and contributions of much interest may fairly be looked for from the members of the foreign consular services, the Chinese Customs' corps, and the missionary body, among whom a high degree of Chinese scholarship is now assiduously cultivated, and who are severally represented in the first number of the Review by papers highly creditable to their respective authors. In a paper on Dr. Legge's She King, by the Rev. E. J. Eitel, to which the place of honour is deservedly given, an excellent summary is presented of the chronological problems and arguments involved in connection with this important work. Some translations from Chinese novels and plays are marked by both accuracy and freshness of style; and an account of the career of the Chinese post-statesman of the eleventh century, Su Tung-p'o, by Mr. E. C. Bowra, is not only historically valuable, but is also distinguished by its literary grace. Beside notices of new books relating to China and the East, which will be a useful feature of the Review, if carried out with punctuality and detail, we are glad to notice that "Notes" and "Queries" are destined to find a place in its pages also. It is to be hoped that this opening for contributions on Chinese subjects may evoke a similar degree of literary zeal to that which was displayed during the lifetime of its predecessor in the field, and that the China Review may receive the support necessary to insure its continuance. The publication is intended to appear every two months, and will form a substantial octavo magazine.

THE CHINESE MAIL.

This paper is now issued every day. The subscription is fixed at Four Dollars per annum, delivered in Hongkong, or Seven Dollars Fifty Cents in other ports.

clipping postage to Great ports. The paper is issued under purely native direction. The editorial department is conducted by Mr. Chun Atin, whose experience and competence have already been most fully demonstrated. The chief support of the paper is of course derived from the native community, amongst whom also are to be found the guarantors and securities necessary to place it on a business and legal footing.

The proprietors, basing their estimates upon the most reliable information from the various Ports in China and Japan, from Australia, California, Singapore, Penang, Saigon, and other places frequented by the Chinese, consider themselves justified in guaranteeing an ultimate circulation of between 3,000 and 4,000 copies. The advantages offered to advertisers are therefore unusually great, and the foreign community generally will find it to their interest to avail themselves of them.

The field open to a paper of this description—conducted by native efforts, but progressive and anti-obstructive in tone—in almost limitless. It on the one hand commands Chinese belief and interest while on the other deserves every aid that can be given to it by foreigners.

Like English journals it contains Editorials, with Local, Shipping, and Commercial News and Advertisements.

Subscription orders for either of the above may be sent to
GEO. MURRAY BAIN,
China Mail Office.

Intimations.

AFONG, PHOTOGRAPHER,

by appointment, to

H. E. SIR ARTHUR KENNEDY, GOVERNOR OF HONGKONG;

and to

H. I. H. THE GRAND DUKE ALEXIS OF RUSSIA,

Wyndham Street, formerly ATHLETIC CLUB,

HAS on hand the Largest and Best collection of Views of China, Photographic Albums, Frames, Cases, &c., of assorted sizes. Ex. S. S. Type, Revolving Standard Albums, Armorial Monograms and Postage Stamp Albums, Russia Leather, Velvet and carved wood Albums, Cases and Frames, also Albums for Cabinet Portraits only, Portraits of the Generals of the present Russo-Turkish War, Eminent British Statesmen, the two Chinese Ambassadors in Cabinet and Carte de Visite sizes, Coloured Portraits of English Ladies.

Hongkong, August 24, 1877.

WASHING BOOKS.

(In English and Chinese.)

WASHERMAN'S BOOKS, for the use of Ladies and Gentlemen, are now ready at this Office.—Price, \$1 each.

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

K'WONG HING CHEUNG & Co.,

Coal Merchants.

Have always on hand for Sale every description of COAL at Moderate Prices.

Mr. ARROW has been appointed Manager, and all Orders addressed to him at 57, Praya, or to Mr. FAY JACK, at 30, Hing Lung Street, will receive immediate attention.

Hongkong, March 19, 1877. mal9

THE HONGKONG CHINESE MAIL.

THE Circulation of THIS PAPER has been very much extended. The following are some of its Agents:—

Macao.—Man Chuen Shop.

Canton.—Sing Chuen Native Post Office, Luen Hing Street; Chui Heng Low Hotel, Luen Hing Street; Kwong Tin Fat Shop, Yan Tai Street; Mr. Sit Chuen Fat, Tung Wen Kwan; Yuen Fong Shop, in front of the Provincial Treasurer's Yamen; How Yuen Shop, Small Market Street, New City; Yee Cheung Photograph Shop, Housay; Kwai Heng Shop, Sin Chong, Housay.

Singapore.—Sui Cheong Hong; Wol Shun Loong Hong.

Amoy.—Chin Cheong Hong, Mook Kak Street.

Foochow.—Mr. Yui Ching Cheong, Foochow Arsenal; Mr. Lum Kwok Ching, Maritime Customs.

Shanghai.—Mr. Ng Ching Shun, Maritime Customs; Mr. Ho Yue Chuen, Maritime Customs; Mr. Chun Sing Hoi, Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co.; Mr. Kwong Chuen Yook, Educational Mission School; and Mow Sing Sang Kee shop.

Ningbo.—Mr. Sung Min Chae, Maritime Customs.

Hankow.—Yee Hing Hong.

Chfoo.—Yee Shun Hong.

Japan.—Mr. Leong Chun Tong, Municipal Office, Yokohama.

Saigon.—Wohang Hong.

Singapore.—Ting Kee Hong; Kwong Pook Sang Hong.

Penang.—Yow Wing Fong; Argus Office.

Calcutta.—Mow Sing Company.

San Francisco.—Kwong Fong Tai Hong.

The above are some of the Agents; others will be published, when they are arranged for. Negotiations are in progress with the express couriers who carry the official despatches and Peking Gazette, to circulate the Chinese Mail in the interior of China.

Hongkong, March 10, 1874.

Chair and Boat Hire.

LEGALISED TARIFF OF FARES FOR CHAIRS, CHAIR BEARERS, AND BOATS, IN THE COLONY OF HONGKONG.

Chairs and Ordinary Pullaway Boats.

Half hour, 10 cts. 1 Hour, 20 cts.

Three hours, .. 50 cts. Six hours, 70 cts.

Day (from 6 to 6), .. 1.00 One Dollar.

Licensed Bearers (each).

Hour, .. 10 cts.

Half day, .. 35 cts.

Day, .. 80 cts.

BOAT AND COOLIE HIRE.

BOATS.

1st Class Cargo Boat of 8 or 900 piculs, per Day, .. \$5.00

1st Class Cargo Boat of 8 or 900 piculs, per Load, .. 2.00

2nd Class Cargo Boat of 600 piculs, per Day, .. 2.50

2nd Class Cargo Boat of 600 piculs, per Load, .. 1.75

Portfolios.

TU QUOQUE.

AN IDYL IN THE CONSERVATORY.

On a romantic hillside.

In the month of May, 1876.

FRANK.

If I were you, when ladies at the play, air,
Book on and nod a melodrama through,
I would not turn abstractedly away, air,
If I were you!

FRANK.

If I were you, when persons I affected
Wait for three hours to take me down to
Kew,
I would, at least, pretend I recollected,
If I were you!

NELLIE.

If I were you, when ladies are so lavish,
Sir, as to keep me every wait but two,
I would not dance with odious Miss M'Tavish,
If I were you!

FRANK.

If I were you, who you cannot suffer
Whiff of the best, the mildest "honey-
dew,"
I would not dance with smoke-consuming
Puffery,
If I were you!

NELLIE.

If I were you, I would not, sir, be bitter,
Even to write the *Cynical Review*—
FRANK.

FRANK.

No, I should doubtless find flirtation fitter,
If I were you!

NELLIE.

Really! you would? Why, Frank, you're
quite delightful!
Hot as Othello, and as black of hue,—
Borrow my fan,—I would not look so fright-
ful,
If I were you!

FRANK.

"It is the cause,"—I mean, your chaperone is
Bringing some well-outraged juvenile. Adieu!
I shall retire. I'd spare that poor Adonis,
If I were you!

NELLIE.

Go, if you will—at once—and by express,
sir!

FRANK.

Where shall it be? To China, or Peru?—
Go! I should leave inquirers my address, sir,
If I were you!

FRANK.

No, I remain. To stay and fight a duel
Seems, on the whole, the proper thing to do.
Ah! you are strong,—I would not then be
cruel,
If I were you!

NELLIE.

One does not like one's feelings to be doubted.
FRANK.

FRANK.

One does not like one's friends to misconstrue.
NELLIE.

FRANK.

If I confess that I was bit pointed?—
NELLIE.

FRANK.

I should admit that I was piqued, too.
NELLIE.

FRANK.

Ask me to dance. I'd say no more about it,
If I were you!

[Waltz—acoust.]

—Austin Dobson.

UNDER THE VIOLETS.

Her hands are cold, her face is white;
Nor more her pulses come and go;
Her eyes are shut to life and light;
Fold the white vesture, snow on snow,
And lay her where the violets blow.

But not beneath a graven stone,
To plead for tears with alien eyes,
A slender cross of wood alone
Shall say that here a maiden lies
In peace beneath the peaceful skies.

And grey old trees of hugest limb
Shall wheel their circling shadows round
To make the scorching sunlight dim,
That drinks the greenness from the ground
And o'er their dead leaves on her mound.

When o'er their boughs the squirrels run,
And through their leaves the robins call,
And, rippling in the Autumn sun,
The acorns and the chestnuts fall,
Doubt not that she would heed them all.

For her the morning choir shall sing
Its matins from the branches high,
And every minstrel voice of Spring
That trills beneath the April sky
Shall greet her with its earliest cry.

When, turning round their dial track,
Eastward the lengthening shadows pass,
Her little mourners, clad in black,
The crickets sliding through the grass,
Shall pipe for her an evening mass.

At last the rooftops of the trees
Shall and the prison where she lies,
And bear the buried dust they seize,
In leaves and blossoms to the skies:
So may the soul that warmed it rise.

If any, born of kinder blood,
Should ask, "What maiden lies below?"
Say only this: "A tender bud,
That tried to blossom in the snow,
Lies withered where the violets blow."
—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

PEARL FISHING IN TORRES STRAITS.

A SOUTH SEA ISLANDER'S YARN.

By J. C.

The following "yarn" has been put
together from particulars furnished by the
South Sea Islander concerned. He is now
in my employ, and was with me before he
went pearling.

My name is Bill Tarko, but on board ship
the captain and men called me Tili. In
the month of May, 1876, I signed articles,
and shipped on board the *Pearl* for two
years, the vessel being equipped for a pearl
fishing expedition among the pearl beds in
Torres Straits. The crew consisted of the
captain, three Europeans, and three of my
own countrymen. After a prolonged and
rough voyage we reached Cape York where
we stayed one night, and anchored the next
day in a central position among the pearl
islands or beds.

When I engaged in Sydney, the duties
that appertain to a sort of generally useful
hand were what I undertook to perform,
but after acting as "tender" to the diver
for a few days, I was informed that I would
have to take my turn at the diving. This
I thought very hard and unfair, as I was
only getting small wages, while the
professional divers were well paid. My
protest was not listened to, and I had to
encase myself in the diver's dress and ap-
parel for many a weary hour among the
strange and singular marine
herbage at the bottom of the Straits seas.

I shall never forget the first time I reached
the bottom with the cumbersome diver's
dress on. If the reader can vividly realize
being in the course of a few minutes trans-
ported from our world on a bright morning,
with the sun shining clearly, and with the
voices of his fellow-beings humming about
him, to a world with no sound and among
structures, even of hideous appearance, and

some very beautiful, the variety being
endless, and all floating or gliding to and
fro in a most mysterious way—he will have
some idea of what my sensations were. I
felt a creeping about my hair and whole
body, and the strangeness of my marine
associates, and the surroundings, conveyed
the impression to my mind that, if not in
the "other" world so much spoken of, I
was at any rate in a world quite different
from our everyday working world. What
added to the strangeness of the objects
floating about was the fact that they were
all magnified by my "glass face," thus
making them look more weird than they
otherwise would have done.

One day when "down below" sending up
the pearl fish, I was started by a great
shark lashing about all round me. I did
not feel what you would call alarm; but I
should have felt more comfortable by the
absence of my frisky friend. I stood quite
still to see what he was at, and to be pre-
pared for an emergency. The brute was
evidently disporting in a most hilarious
manner, and I soon had occasion to arrive
at the conclusion that my grotesque appear-
ance had something to do with his friskiness.
He sailed round and round me, each gyra-
tion narrowing the circle and each being var-
ied by extraordinary attitudes. His sharkskin
kept up the performance for some minutes,
when all at once he lay still with his huge
head within three feet of my body. He
looked me over from head to foot as care-
fully as if he had been a detective survey-
ing a man "wanted." As he now lay
pointing I could see his full length and
allowing for his being magnified by my
"glass face," I estimated his length at
twelve feet, with body proportionately
large. Every now and again he would open
his great mouth and show his immense
teeth, and apparently lick his chops. How
much longer he might have continued to
survey my trembling person, I don't know,
for I began to feel rather uneasy at the
sight of his great teeth and luminous eyes
staring at me, so I made a splash with one
of my legs, when, to my horror and aston-
ishment, he commenced dancing round and
playing with me somewhat in the way that
a puppy often plays round his master. I
now began to get alarmed, and at once
signalled to the "tender" that I wanted
to go aloft. Let me assure the reader I was
not sorry when I found myself sitting on
the deck of our boat. I must, however, do
his sharkskin the justice to say that he
never attempted to snap at me, but it was
the very opposite of pleasant to have so
much affection and playfulness exhibited
by so strange a customer.

My next visit to the mysteries of the
deep was on the day succeeding the incident
recorded above. As I descended the ladder,
the thought passed through my mind that
I had no wish to renew the acquaintance of
my frisky friend. The professional diver
told me if he came again to make a great
splash and stir up the mud or sand, and
he would go away. This advice I determined
to follow if his sharkskin attempted his
larks with me; at the same time, I had
my doubts whether such a determined
"tumbler" would be deterred by such
simple means.

We had our boat anchored over a very
good bed of pearl fish, and when I got to
the bottom I stood and carefully surveyed
the surroundings before beginning my work.
My line of vision extended through the
clear water for about 100 yards, and within
that circle I could see every object toler-
ably well. To my left there was a sort of
sandy bed, over which a large school of
small fish were swimming, and directly they
saw me they made towards me, and began
going round my person, and at last came
right up to where I stood. I kept very
still, and they swam through my legs and
arms, and poised about my body in a most
familiar manner. I had my arms extended
and my hands wide open. Every now and
again one of them would rest in the palm of
my hand, and I determined, if possible, to
catch one, just to see what it was like. I
made the effort by closing my right hand
suddenly on one of their number that I
felt sure I should have no difficulty in
capturing. What was my astonishment
when I opened my fingers to find that my
finny friend had disappeared. How he got
away I could not tell. He was right in my
hand when I closed it; nevertheless he
was gone. I often tried the same experi-
ment, but never succeeded in catching one.

I had not been working long in filling my
bag to send up aloft before I felt something
twining round my arm, and to my dismay,
when I looked to see what it was, I found
a water snake firmly coiled round, just
above the wrist. I at once seized hold of
the brute's tail and tried my best to pull
it off, but all to no purpose. What was I
to do? I tried, and tried again, but
no use. At last I encompassed my left arm
where the reptile lay coiled, with my right
hand, and pressed downwards, and the
snake slid the slimy way down over the
hand, and he glided away as if nothing was
the matter. At the time I felt very nervous,
for I had never come in contact with one
of them before, but I learnt by subsequent
experience that they are not dangerous.

After working away for two weeks we
cleared out the bed we were then on, and
our provisions being short, we weighed
anchor and set sail for the vessel.

While we had been absent, another pearl
fishing schooner had anchored alongside of
our vessel, and they had got their boat out
and nearly ready for starting to work.
When the captain and crew of this schooner
saw our boat coming up loaded with pearl
fish they put off to sea, what sort of success
we had had, and their eyes seemed to
gladden when they saw our fine haul. It
took us some days to get our shells put on
board the vessel, and re-provision our boat
for a fresh start. As the boat of the other
schooner had been ready long before ours,
we were at a loss to know why they did not
make a start. The fact was the ground was
new to the crew, and they did not know
where to begin, and they were waiting for
us to start so that they could follow and get
in alongside us on the same bed.

Our captain, who saw through the scheme, gave
instructions to go away in the middle of
the night, to have no light in the boat, and
we were to propel her with muffled oars.
On our way from the bed we had previously
worked out, we had discovered another and
it was to this spot that we were to direct
our course. It was about three miles from
the vessel, and on the other side of an island
which would completely shut us out from
the view of either vessel.

The night came that we were to start. It
was intensely dark, with heavy clouds float-
ing all round and giving strong indications
of rain. At midnight our crew got quietly
on board, and silently pushed off from the
vessel's side. Beyond the dark clouds lying
across in quick succession, the few stars
that twinkled here and there, and heavy
indistinct outlines of the island under the
sky, which our vessel was moving, we

could literally see nothing. We had to
grope our way as best we could. This
darkness had one advantage, and that was
this giving us a better chance of eluding our
frisky friend who was so anxious to keep us
company. Whether we had succeeded in
accomplishing this feat, we at present could
not tell. We should (heavily) be nothing of
them as we stole silently on. When we
had got what we estimated about two miles
away from the vessel, the mate struck a
match, down the hold, and examined the
compass to see how we were going.

We had got out of the house slightly,
but this was soon rectified, and in a short
time we were again on ground on the island.
We were going to work off, but the bed was
on the opposite side to where we brought
up. Our task was now easy, as all we had
to do was to follow this shore round, and
getting sufficiently far round so as to effec-
tually elude him from view, so far as the line
of vision from those on board the schooner
was concerned, we could then await day-
light for it was impossible to find the bed
in the dark. As it wanted some two hours
before it would be daylight, I was appointed
to keep watch while the others slept.

After they had all lain down and were fast
asleep, I felt a driveliness come over me,
and do what I would I could not keep my
eyes open. The end was that in a short
time I was just as sound asleep as any of
my mates. My sleep, however, was very
disturbed, for I felt my responsibility, but
this I did not think of. Just at the first break
of dawn was breaking; I was awake by a
great splash of water alongside the boat,
and the first thing I saw was a great alli-
gator in hot pursuit after an immense
dugong. The latter was evidently severely
wounded, for he left in his wake a wide
stream of blood, but nevertheless he went
through the water at a tremendous rate.
Whether he was ultimately captured or not
I could not tell, for the two disappeared
round the end of the island. While I was
still gazing in the direction the two had
taken, I heard a voice exclaim, "Good
morning, Kumbo! How are you?" I
turned about, and to my astonishment there
lay the schooner's boat at anchor within a
hundred yards of me. How long they had
been there, or how they had managed to
stick to us through the dark, it was impos-
sible to tell.

My mates now got up, and the question
was discussed as to whether we should go
on to the bed and commence operations, or
try and give them the "slip." The question
of going to work was decided on, as prefer-
able to waiting time in trying to elude
them.

We soon took up our places, and after
breakfast the diver went down and the
work of pulling our boat commenced. The
crew of the other boat, as we had expected,
dove up in a line with us, and also sent
down their diver. It was now a question
of skill and hard work to secure the great-
est number of the precious shells. We had
two professional divers in our boat, besides
myself, and so as to secure as much expe-
rience as possible, we had very short shifts.
When it came to my turn to go down below,
the mate—who was the captain of our boat's
crew—told me to collect as far from our
boat, and in the direction of the other, as
I could, and by this means out the others
off from the bed as much as possible. We
were anchored in about the centre. I put
on the diver's dress and went to the
bottom.

As usual, before I actually
began to gather the pearl fish, I surveyed
the locality with my eyes. The water was
as clear as crystal, and I could see
very distinctly the direction of the other boat
and its divers, but at the time I caught
sight of it it looked the most hideous object
I had ever seen. It resembled nothing in
earth or heaven, so far as I know. When
I caught sight of it it was walking along the
bottom at right angles from where I was
standing, and looked 20 feet high, while the
strides it made seemed to cover yards. I
had never seen a diver when down below
myself before, it will therefore not be a
surprise to the reader when I say that I
could not make out the monster now before
me. I was on the point of sending a signal
to be drawn up, when the object of my
terror faced towards me and advanced in
my direction. It now flashed across my
mind who and what the monster was, and
I could not help laughing at the idea that
I who was similarly dressed looked to my
brother diver equally monstrous.

We advanced towards each other, and he
extended his huge hand, which I took in
mine and we had a hearty squeeze, both
alighting at the novelty of the scene of our
greeting.

After I was down diving I saw,
sitting on a patch of green stuff, a white
object exactly like a monkey. So complete
was the resemblance that I could not dis-
cover any difference, except the color—the
ears, legs, arms, hands, eyes, and attitude
being precisely like those of the ordinary
monkey. I tried to approach it, so as to get
a nearer view, but the first step I took it
was gone! How or where I could not tell;
but as the disappearance was so quick, in
fact like a flash of lightning, I came to the
conclusion that the brute had a hole close to
where it was sitting, down which it had
gone. I could not however discover it, al-
though on this, as on subsequent occasions
when I saw it, I tried to do so.

At the end of ten days we had filled our
boat again, having far outstripped our op-
ponents in the number of shells collected,
and we set off for the *Pearl*.

The anchor of our boat had hardly touched
the bottom here before my two companions
disappeared out of the boat. They had both
dived down to explore the bed. In a very
short space of time they both came up on
either side of the boat, each having in his
hands a splendid specimen of the pearl
shell. They made me understand by their
gesticulations that there were plenty more
just where they had brought up down below.

This threw what they had into the boat,
and again dived. About the same space of
time elapsed as when they first went down,
when the one on the left side of the boat
again appeared with another large pearl fish.
Instead of throwing this into the boat, and
going down as before, he rushed to the gun-
wale, cut it in anyhow, and climbed up the
side as the "old gentleman" were after him.

But what had become of the other? I
looked in the direction that he had gone
down, but could see no sign of the man.
The one who had got into the boat came
over to where I was sitting in a state of
great excitement, and he began gesticulat-
ing in a wild manner, pointing his finger to
the spot where his companion had dived.
To make me understand what he meant, he
opened his mouth and caught hold of the
tail of his leg. While he was still trying
by this startling method to make me com-
prehend what he wished to describe, the
object of my surprise came to the surface

right close to this boat. He had no sooner
got his head above water than he let out a
yell that reverberated through the island,
and the water round him was tinted with
blood. He reached up his hand to catch
hold of the gunwale, while simultaneously I
and his companion seized him by the hair of
the head. We got his body on a level with
the boat, and in the act of lifting him in, a
shark seized hold of his only remaining leg
and nearly wrenched him from our grasp.
The poor fellow, while down below, had been
attacked by a shark, who had taken off his
right leg before he got to the surface, and it
was while we were pulling him in that the
same or another ravenous brute took off the
other. It was a clean bite, or he would
certainly have snatched the man from us.
We laid him in the bottom of the boat gen-
tly, and did all we could to allay his suffer-
ings. Poor wretch! how he suffered!
Heaven only knows what he went through.
He only lived about ten minutes. Judging
from the contortions of his face, the fright-
ful writhings of his body, and terrible
groans, the time, although so short, to him
must have been a long lifetime of agony.

That night, when we reached the vessel
and explained what had occurred, the cap-
tain said he would not allow another man to
go down without being accompanied by the
diving dress. The next day the poor fellow
was buried at sea.

Some days after this, and event we were
anchored over the bed where the unfortunate
native had lost his life. I was working down
below in the diving dress, and sending up a
fine lot of splendid pearl fish—the biggest I
had ever seen. I had been at work about
an hour, when all at once I felt something
strike the side of my helmet. I put up my
right hand to feel what it was, when to my
amazement I found a fish about two feet
long stuck hard and fast. His tail was
lashing about, and after several vain at-
tempts I managed to secure it. I got a
firm hold, and tried to disconnect it from
my head-gear. But pull as hard as I could,
not a move could I get out of the brute.

While I was struggling away might and
main, another of them fastened on to my
left side. I was now badly fixed. While
one lashed with his tail across the glass
front of my helmet, the other did ditto
across my stomach. When the second had
taken hold, I let go the tail of the first,
and that both fell swinging now. It is all
very well to describe the position. I was in,
but to feel it at the time I tell you was no
joke. Only two had fastened on to me, but
how could I tell at the time whether I might
not have every inch of my body similarly
occupied. What sort of fish were they?
and what were they up to? These were the
questions that I asked myself as I seized
both fish, and vainly endeavored to discon-
nect them from my person. Full as I
would, not one inch could I move either.
Still I worked away at their tails, de-
termined to conquer if possible. I might
just as well have tried to balance our boat
upon my nose. Sir they would not.

In the midst of my tussle a turtle came swim-
ming close to me, when to my great relief
both fish let go simultaneously and darted
off after the turtle. Whether they caught
the unfortunate or not I don't know, for
they were soon out of sight.

When I went aloft and told the divers of
my encounter, they only laughed at me, ex-
plaining that the fish that had fastened on
to my body were only "snappers." We
subsequently caught one of them with a
line, and on turning it on its back it fasten-
ed to the deck, and there was not a man on
board the vessel strong enough, even with
both hands, to displace it. The "snapper"
is at the back of the head, and looks some-
thing like an elongated five-shilling piece,
with finework in the centre. This sucker,
when it takes hold, forms a vacuum, and
nothing less than a torpedo shock would
loosen the hold when once fixed.

When we had been working about for
some nine months, and collected a good
number of pearls, I was sent on an exploring
tour in the boat, my crew consisting of the
native who was with me when his mate was
killed by sharks, and a boy that we had
taken from another schooner which no longer
required his services. The lad was about
fourteen years old, but rather stupid. We
had put on board our boat provisions to last
for three days, and we were directed to
cruise among several small islands, the
farthest not being more than ten miles from
the *Pearl*.

The second day after we had left the
vessel we were sailing in between two islands
when the native, who could now say a few
words in broken English, asked me to haul
down the sail and cast the anchor, as he
thought we were on a good pearl bed. The
wish was soon complied with, for in less time
than it takes to describe, the sail and anchor
were down.

The native only had a pair of old trousers
and shirt on, which he began to take off
preparatory to diving. When I saw what he
was going to do I remonstrated with him, as
the captain had given orders not to go down
without the diving dress. The native
however took no notice of me, but in he
plunged. I and the boy sat watching for
his re-appearance. He had been down for
what I was sure extended beyond the usual
time, and I was getting alarmed. Well I
might! At last the fore-part of the body
came up, with a stream of blood and oil
substance floating all around him, and before
I could get hold of what was left of the man,
it was seized and hurled through the water
at a terrific rate, leaving in the wake a wide
streak of the poor fellow's life-blood. We
never saw anything more of him. He had
gone to his long home, "where the weary
rest." Savage, although he was, he
was a "good fellow," and I deplored his sad
fate extremely.

The captain was angry with me when I
told him what had happened, but the boy
corroborated what I said that the unfortunate
fellow would go in spite of me.

But I will now stop recounting my adven-
tures, and at some other time—perhaps not
far distant—will give an account of my last
year's experience in pearl fishing in Torres
Straits.

Before I close this paper I should just like
to warn sailors and others engaging on board
vessels destined for the pearl-fishing trade,
to see into the provisions and other little
domestic items supplied. The fare on board
the craft I was in was the very opposite of
good; in fact the meat was so salt and hard
as to render it unfit for use. The dangers
and hardships of the life are quite bad
enough to encounter without being starved
into the bargain. The story of my first
year's pearl-fishing is ended. — *Queen-
slander.*

A READING TOUR ADVENTURE.

Being a young cousin sent last week
for a reading tour with a friend, a boxful
of books, and a tutor, I was reminded of a
similar journey which I once took myself,
while reading to my dog. Yes, the
dog (which would not have been otherwise

but for an adventure which occurred to us
in the course of it.

Allow me, to mention, by the way, that
young men never study much Sophocles
when they roam from city to city with
knapsacks on their shoulders, as we did.
After a six weeks' tramp through Scotland,
we had not once opened a book, when at
length we settled down in a small inn at
town on the shores of the Firth of Forth,
which shall be nameless, and resolved that
now was the time to go to work. This
arrangement suited two of us and the tutor,
who were in earnest; but a third, one
Simpson, whose degree day was still six
months off, excused himself from joining
our labours under the pretext that too
much Greek at a time made him ill.

This Simpson loved to lie on his back
and smoke. He had a Scotch teacher who
kept him company, and I never knew him
wish for anything better than to be let
alone, when he sprawled upon the beach
with his straw hat over his eyes, and his
dog between his legs, sniffing at the waves.
Appearances are deceitful, however, for
while the two others, the tutor and self,
were cracking our heads over ancient
Simpson continued to pay a very assiduous
attention to Lizzie McDermott, the red-cheeked
daughter of our host.

How he contrived to do this without
exciting the suspicions of any of us he
kept as a secret that I was taken
aback when one day he came to me in
agitation to say that old McDermott had
smelt out the *pot aux roses* cultivated be-
tween him and Lizzie, and threatened to
shoot him with a blunderbuss if he did not
marry the girl.

Simpson's yellow hair was steeped with
the moisture of fear, and it was easy to see
that he was not joking. But this did not
prevent my taking a humorous view of his
situation.

"People don't get shot in that way.
You've long legs and can bolt."

"But what if he should follow me? He
says he'd pursue me over the border, he'd
sout me out at Oxford, he'd hunt me round
the world, if I gave him the slip."

"Give him the slip and see. Meantime,
what does Lizzie say?"

"She agrees with her father."

"Agree that you ought to be shot?"

"No, only that I ought to marry her.
Nothing will shake that notion out of her
head, it's no use trying."

"Well, come out of doors without taking
any luggage. We'll walk to the first rail-
way station; you'll climb into a train and
go for England. Once you've gone,
old McDermott will cool down and I'll try
to make your peace."

Simpson concurred that this was a pre-
sident thing to do, and we set out as though
for a mere walk, unhindered. On the way
he told me enough of his amorous doings
to show that old McDermott was partially
justified in talking about the blunderbuss;
and, indeed, Simpson revealed himself in
many new lights as he poured out his
simple confession. At the station nobody
prevented him from taking a ticket. We
shook hands; he and the dog encoined
themselves in a carriage; and when the
train was gone I walked back to the inn to
tell our friends what had occurred. The
tutor, being about to be ordained, was
naturally shocked, and offered some remarks
during dinner about the duties of man
towards the weaker sex.

Allan McDermott's inn, the "Three
Crabs," was a very primitive place, with
sanded floors and rooms that smelt of fish.
His three sons were fishermen and provided
about at odd hours barbelled, with nets
on their backs. The smallest of them was
six feet high. Lizzie, whose mother was
dead, acted as housekeeper and waitress,
often attending on us at dinner when her
brothers were out in their boat, and the
servant girl was busy with her saucepans
in the kitchen. Old Allan spent most of
his time in a parlour, smoking a clay pipe
and reading London newspapers which we
lent him, and in which, methought, he took
excessive interest. He was a keen politi-
cian of the Free Kirk Radical order, and
had given his three children a solid educa-
tion with the conviction that ignorance is
the clogging chain of the lower orders,
and makes them helpless to claim their rights.

Lizzie McDermott could not play the
piano or paint; but she wrote a bold hand,
recoiled the longest score for whiskey in a
moment and was learned in the laws of the
Pentateuch and the Books of Kings and
Judges. She was not exactly pretty, but
fresh as a rose and sharp as one of the
thorns that protect this flower. How it
came that she and Simpson had wrought
folly in Israel, to use her father's ex-
pression, would have been inexplicable but
for the fact that women do not see men with
the same eyes as we who wear coats. Per-
haps the Scotch lass had discovered that
Simpson's soul was a thing of sweetness.
He was in any case of age to marry with-
out his family's consent, and he enjoyed
some property, which would enable him to
keep a wife.

Lizzie's eyes were red after Simpson's
departure; but as old Allan made no allu-
sion to the truant or his offence we made
none either. It struck us, however, that
Lizzie's three brothers had suddenly dis-
appeared, and indeed they were not seen
for three days, when they turned up,
bringing Simpson with them, while the
dog trotted behind.

I was alone writing a letter when our
luckless friend entered, limp, spineless,
and bereft of color. He said that the
Newcastle and given him the choice between
returning with them or being thrashed
until all his bones were broken with three
sticks whistled by him in his hand.
To all his appeals they had
turned the deaf ears of unreason; one,
seeing him waver, had even hinted at a
tentative dose with the ash sticks by way
of preliminary.

"But why didn't you resist—call for
a policeman?" I asked, impressed with the
idea that Simpson's valour was not shining
at this trying moment.

"Couldn't they have manled me into
nothing before the policeman came up?"
retorted Simpson, impatiently. "Besides,
do you think I want a riot, with ex-
planations in a police-court? A fellow
has to sing small in a scrape of this sort."

"In sum, then, you saved in, and paid
the McDermotts their return journey?"

